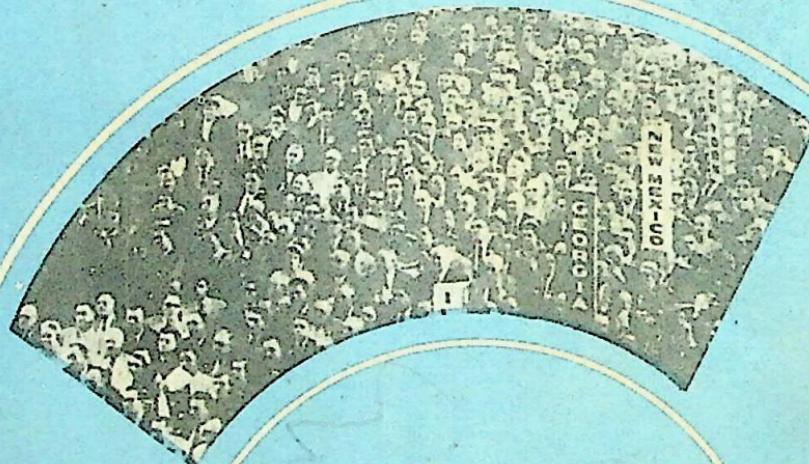


25

America Elects a PRESIDENT



HOW THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS ELECTED



America Elects a President

The Election Process

One of the most vital and colourful phases of American political life is the whole series of events leading, every four years, to the election of the President and Vice President of the United States. There are four basic steps of this process, in which the will of the people speaks out in clear tones :

1. **The selection of delegates to the national conventions of the two major political parties.** The delegates may be selected by state party organization committees or conventions, or by state primary elections. In fifteen of the fifty American states convention delegates are elected in the "preferential presidential primary", in which all voters have the opportunity of expressing their choice of public figures to be advanced by their party as that party's candidates. Primaries serve in a sense as preliminary bouts to the main election contest.
2. **The two national conventions**, held during the summer of the election year, where each party nominates its candidate for President and Vice President.
3. **The political campaign**, when each candidate actively presents himself and his party's views on crucial issues to the people seeking their votes. Intense campaigning began in August this year and will last with long hours and hard work for the candidates until election day on November 8. Travel, speeches, television and radio appearances, interviews with the press—all this is the candidates life during the campaign. He reaches many voters in personal appearances, but millions more through press, radio and television. An unusual feature of the campaign this year will be an unprecedented series of face-to-face television debates between the two nominees. Of the eight projected television debates, four programmes of one hour each are to be reserved for questioning of the two nominees by newsmen. More than 100 million people will view these debates all over the country on their television sets.
4. **The popular election**, when the voters finally cast their ballot for electors who, in turn, elect the President and the Vice President. Electors are members of the Electoral College whose only duty is to translate formally the popular vote for President and Vice President in national elections into the electoral vote required by the Constitution.

Political Parties

Foreigners often are surprised that Americans have only two political parties which are of any significance in the election process. This is because, traditionally, the United States Government functions under a two-party system. It is true that during elections one sees on the ballot a number of minor parties with consistent although very small followings. Occasionally, an important third major party emerges over a vital national issue. For limited periods of time, they have been influential in American politics, but almost invariably their insistence on reform has later been absorbed by one of the two major parties, or both.

The two large parties are the Republican and the Democratic. Among the minor parties are the Socialist Labour party, the Socialist Workers party, and the Prohibition party.

Americans have found several advantages in the two-party system. They believe that it tends to make an orderly and stable government, with both the party in power and the opposition exercising a vigilant watch over the conduct of government. The two-party system, as it seems to Americans, offers voters a difference in points of view and candidates, and yet eliminates the confusion of a multiplicity of party platforms and candidates. Despite divergent views within parties, it is generally possible under the two-party system to obtain a majority vote on important legislation.

POLITICAL DIVISIONS OF U.S. SENATE AND HOUSE

1945 (79th Congress) to 1959 (86th Congress)

	Senate				House of Representatives			
	No. of Senators	Democrats	Repub-licans	Other Parties	No. of Repre-sen-tatives	Democ-rats	Repub-licans	Other Parties
79th...1945	96	57	38	1	435	243	190	2
80th...1947	96	45	51	-	435	188	246	1
81st...1949	96	54	42	-	435	263	171	1
82nd...1951	96	49	47	-	435	235	199	1
83rd...1953	96	47	48	1	435	213	221	1
84th...1955	96	48	47	1	435	232	203	-
85th...1957	96	49	47	-	435	234	201	-
86th...1959	100	65	35	-	437	284	153	-

Active Participation of the Citizen

Of particular interest and significance in the current American elections is the new-style local political organization which has been growing rapidly in the United States during the past decade. It has made its appearance in the form of political clubs established by groups of like-minded citizens at the grass-roots level (i.e. encompassing perhaps two or three city blocks). It has brought the voter into the active role of discussing party, state and national policies, actively pressing for his and the club's views within the political party, and energetically informing other citizens of the issues during local, state and national campaigns. This new local political organization effectively encourages and creates real independence of view, in contrast to voter dependence upon the "wisdom" of higher councils. It leads to active voter participation in the entire political process in contrast to a relatively passive role confined to voting at the polls. It stimulates the development of more democratic procedures within each party in reaching decisions both on policy positions and the selection of candidates to represent the party. This modern trend is the product of a number of factors. Prosperity has resulted in fewer persons making local party politics a profession with a view to the possibility of obtaining a public job, since the latter pays much less than a private job. More free time is available to people, many of whom find they can utilize it most satisfactorily by participation in politics. Education, including that by voluntary citizen groups, has provided thousands of citizens with a better understanding of government and an enhanced sense of responsibility for participating in the process of self-government. The new voter-political participant type American is attracted to politics for the opportunities that politics provides him for self-expression on matters of principle, and for public service.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTING :

1. Citizenship (required by all States in the Union).
2. 21 years of age (except in Georgia and Kentucky where the voting age is 18, in Alaska where it is 19 and in Hawaii where it is 20).
3. Registration is required in most states.
4. Literacy (17 States require literacy tests).

CAPSULE BIOGRAPHIES

Richard M. Nixon—Republican Presidential Nominee. Born January 9, 1913, in Yorba Linda, near Los Angeles, California. Son of a small town store-keeper.

Education : Educated in public schools and in 1934 was graduated from Whittier College with honours. Later he attended North Carolina's Duke University Law School from which he graduated with honours in 1937.

Military Service : He served the United States Navy during the second World War and reached the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

Early Career : Before the war, he practiced law in California. In 1946 he was elected to the United States House of Representatives from California and was re-elected in 1948. In 1950, he was elected to the United States Senate.



Vice President : Mr. Nixon was elected Vice-President in 1952. The Eisenhower-Nixon ticket was re-elected in 1956. Since his first election to Vice-Presidency, Mr. Nixon has visited 55 countries (including India in 1953) as the President's personal ambassador of goodwill. In his 150,000 miles of foreign travel, he has become personally acquainted with most of the world's political leaders.

Family : Mr. Nixon married Patricia Ryan, a California school teacher, in 1940. They have two daughters : Patricia, born in 1946; and Julie, born in 1948.

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Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr.—Republican Vice-Presidential Nominee. Born July 5, 1902 in Nahant, Massachusetts. His family has a distinguished record of diplomatic and political service. His grandfather served 30 years as Senator from Massachusetts. His brother John Davis Lodge, was for four years Governor for Connecticut, and is now United States Ambassador to Spain.

Education : He graduated from Harvard University, Cambridge, with honours in 1924.

Military Service : As a Major in the United States Army during the second World War, he saw active service with the first American tank detachment, attached to the British Eighth Army in Libya. He received the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit Medal, French Legion of Honour, and the Croix de Guerre with palm.



Early Career : He began his career as a journalist, first with "Boston Evening Transcript" and later with "The New York Herald Tribune." He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1936 and re-elected in 1942, but resigned to serve in U.S. Army in World War II. He won election to the Senate again in 1946 and became a member of Foreign Relations Committee. In 1953, Mr. Lodge was appointed by President Eisenhower as Permanent United States Representative to the United Nations.

Family : Mr. Lodge married Emily Sears on July 1, 1926. They have two sons.

OF LEADING CANDIDATES

John F. Kennedy—Democratic Presidential Nominee. Born May 29, 1917 in Brookline, Massachusetts. Son of a prosperous businessman and financier, who later became American Ambassador to Great Britain.

Education : He attended public and private schools and in 1940 was graduated with honours from Harvard University.

Military Service : He joined the United States Navy in 1941 and served as Patrol-Torpedo boat commander in the South Pacific. Awarded Navy Cross and Purple Heart for acts of leadership and heroism in action. Retired from service due to injuries in 1945.



Early Career : After the War he served as a correspondent for International News Service for some time. In 1946, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives from Massachusetts and re-elected 1948 and 1950. Took a keen interest in foreign affairs and toured Western Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Won Pulitzer Prize for biography for his book "Profiles in Courage."

Senator : He was elected to the United States Senate in 1952 and was re-elected in 1958. As a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, he advocated increased economic aid to newly developing countries.

Family : Mr. Kennedy married Jacqueline Lee Bouvier on September 12, 1953. They have a daughter, Caroline, born in 1957.

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Lyndon B. Johnson—Democratic Vice-Presidential Nominee. Born August 27, 1908, in Johnson City, Texas, a town founded by his grandfather and named after him. His father served for 24 years in the Texas State legislature.

Education : He received his education in Southwest Texas State Teachers College from which he graduated in 1930. He studied Law at Georgetown University Law School, Washington. In 1941, he was commissioned as a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy and served for eight months receiving the Silver Star award for service in the Pacific area.



Early Career : He started his career as a school teacher in Houston in 1930. Between the years 1932-35, he served as secretary to Rep. Richard M. Kleberg of Texas. In 1937, he was elected to the House of Representatives and served five consecutive terms.

Senator : In 1948 he was elected to the Senate. He is the Senate floor leader of the Democratic Party, and the Chairman of the Democratic Policy Committee. He is also the Chairman of the Senate's Aeronautical and Space Sciences Committee and member of the Appropriations and Armed Services Committees.

Family : Mr. Johnson married Lady Bird Taylor on November 17, 1934. They have two daughters, Lynda Bird and Lucy Baines.

Highlights of the 1960 Republican Platform

The Republican Party in its 1960 election platform, pledges to the American electorate unremitting support for freedom in liberty and justice throughout the world.

Foreign Policy: "The sovereign purpose of our foreign policy", the platform declares, "is to secure the free institutions of our nation against every peril; to hearten and fortify the love of freedom everywhere in the world; and to achieve a just peace for all of anxious humanity".

Support for the United Nations, the NATO, SEATO, CENTO, the Organization of American States and other collective security alliances has been re-affirmed.

In the Middle East, "we shall continue to support the integrity and independence of all the States of that area, including Israel and the Arab States."

In its reference to Communist China, the platform states that opposition to that nation's admission to the United Nations will continue.

On disarmament the platform says: "We are ready to negotiate and institute realistic methods and safeguards for disarmament and for the suspension of nuclear tests.... We have deep concern about the mounting nuclear arms race. This concern leads us to seek disarmament and... to protect all peoples from nuclear danger...."

On the importance of support for the economic development of developing nations the platform declares: "We recognize that upon our support of well conceived programmes of economic cooperation among nations rest the best hopes of hundreds of millions of friendly people.... We mean to continue in support of them."

Civil Rights: Greater effort towards the removal of all forms of discrimination for minority groups is advocated. "Equality under law" the platform states, "promises more than the equal right to vote and transcends mere relief from discrimination by government.... It becomes a reality only when all persons have equal opportunity, without distinction of race, religion, colour or national origin, to acquire the essentials of life—housing, education and employment....

"The Department of Justice will continue its vigorous support of court orders for school desegregation...."

Economic Objectives: "To provide the means to a better life for individual Americans and to strengthen the forces of freedom in the world, we count on the proved productivity of our free economy", the platform states. It adds that the party accords "high priority to vigorous economic growth...."

On agriculture, the platform states that "our challenge...is one of dealing with abundance"; it advocates a sharing of the national bounty with other peoples and pledges an "intensification of the Food for Peace programme, including new cooperative efforts among food surplus nations to assist the... peoples in less favoured areas of the world."

Highlights of the 1960 Democratic Platform

The Democratic Party will go to the electorate in the 1960 elections with a platform—or election manifesto—which emphasises “the rights of man” at home and abroad.

Foreign Policy—Objectives : “The creation of an enduring peace in which the universal values of human dignity, truth and justice under law are finally secured for all men everywhere on earth.”

Support for the United Nations and through its machinery to work for disarmament, the establishment of an international police force, the strengthening of the World Court and the establishment of World law.

Continuance of military assistance “where it remains essential . . . But as rapidly as security considerations permit,” to “replace tanks with tractors, bombers with bulldozers and tacticians with technicians.”

Continued opposition to the present admission of Communist China to the United Nations.

Willingness to negotiate with Communist nations “whenever and wherever there is a realistic possibility of progress without sacrifice of principles . . .”

“In the Middle East”, the platform declares, “we will work for guarantees to insure independence for all States. We will encourage direct Arab-Israel peace negotiations . . .”

Creation of working partnerships, based on mutual respect and understanding with non-communist nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

India is named specifically as a “major test of the capacity of free men in a difficult environment to master . . . age old problems . . . We will,” the platform declares, “support their efforts in every practical way.”

On disarmament, the platform states that “a primary task is to develop responsible proposals that will help break the deadlock on arms control . . . Such proposals should include means for ending nuclear tests under workable safeguards, cutting . . . nuclear weapons, reducing conventional forces, preserving outer space for peaceful purposes, preventing surprise attack, and limiting the risk of accidental war.”

Civil Rights for Negroes and other Minority Groups : Increased support for desegregation processes and “equal access for all Americans to all areas of community life, including polling booths, schoolrooms, jobs, housing and public facilities.”

Economic Objectives : The platform states that the party holds that “our economy can and must grow at an average rate of 5 per cent annually, almost twice as fast as our average annual rate since 1953. We pledge ourselves to policies that will achieve this goal without inflation . . .”

“Full employment”, the party describes “as a paramount objective of national policy.”

On agriculture the platform pledges to take “positive action to raise farm income . . .” It also declares that “as long as . . . millions of people . . . remain underfed, we shall regard . . . agricultural riches . . . not as a liability but as a national asset.”

NIXON SPEAKS

On Disarmament

There is no question as to our desire to enter into a disarmament agreement. The problem is in securing an agreement that is enforceable—because an agreement without adequate inspection provisions, which one party might honour and the other might not, would seriously and perhaps fatally increase rather than reduce the risk of war.

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The most difficult problem confronting our society today is...the simple but over-riding question of the survival of our civilization. While none of us would downgrade the importance of such challenging problems as the control of inflation, economic growth, civil rights, or urban development, we all know that the most perfect solutions of any of our domestic problems will make no difference at all if we are not around to enjoy them.

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On Foreign Aid

The purpose of our aid is not to buy the friendship of (other) countries and not to make them satellites. We aid them in order to toughen their economic and political fiber to a point where they can be independent of any foreign domination—including our own.

* * *

I would not like the case for United States assistance to rest simply on the negative, defensive issue of helping the have-not nations in order to save the United States from Communism. I think the case can be more accurately and more forcefully presented not in terms of the defeat of Communism but rather of the victory of plenty over want, of health over disease, of freedom over tyranny of any type, wherever it exists in the world. We can assure our friends in these lands that we welcome the opportunity to work with them in developing the economic progress which they desire.

On India

India...needs peace and wants peace in order that they can consolidate their newly-won independence and in order that they can deal with their great problems.

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Our next President must tell the people not what they want to hear but what they need to hear...For example, it may be just as essential to the national interest to build a dam in India as in California.

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In the great struggle that is going on in the world today primary emphasis at the present time is on the non-military aspect of the struggle...The question which will be answered in the next five years—the next ten years—will be this : Can a people who need economic progress to satisfy the wants of their greatly increasing populations, achieve it in a climate of freedom, or must they pay for progress by giving up freedom ? And what happens in India will therefore have a tremendous impact on the decisions made in other countries in Asia, in the Near East, in Africa and even in the Americas. This indicates the tremendous stake the free world has in the economic problems of India.

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As far as our friends in India are concerned, we can assure...those in that great land so far away...that we welcome the opportunity to work with you in developing the economic progress which is yours, so that you can prove to all the world that it is possible to have progress with freedom. This is our aim, and we know also that it is yours.

KENNEDY SPEAKS

On Disarmament

We want to show our greatness in peace, not in war. We want to demonstrate the strength of our ideas not our arms. That is why, at the same time we prepare our deterrent, we must also prepare for disarmament with specific concrete plans and policies.

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Plans for disarmament—specific, workable, acceptable plans—must be formulated with care, with precision and, above all, with thorough research. For peace, like war, has become tremendously complicated....

Joint undertaking with other western powers—and perhaps, eventually in the U.N. and even with the Russians—could facilitate research and planning. Positive programmes for peace, including international cooperation in education and medicine, can be planned.

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On Foreign Aid

We must....greatly increase the flow of capital to the underdeveloped areas of Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America....enabling emerging nations to achieve economic as well as political independence and closing the dangerous gap....between our living standards and theirs.

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It is our job to prove that we can devote....energy, intelligence, idealism, and sacrifice to the survival and triumph of the open society.... International economic development is a vast international effort, an enterprise of positive association which lies close to the heart of our relations with the whole free world and which requires active American leadership.

On India

India follows a route in keeping with human dignity and individual freedom.

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An long as... efforts are aimed only at assuring short term solvency, they only leave plans for an... Indian development programme suspended in mid-air... We can give a convincing demonstration that we have not a propaganda or crisis interest but a long-term interest in the productive economic growth of the less developed nations.

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No struggle in the world today deserves more of our time and attention than that which now grips the attention of all Asia.... And that is the struggle between India and China for leadership of the east, for the respect of all Asia, for the opportunity to demonstrate whose way of life is the better. The battle may be more subtle than loud—it may not even be admitted by either side—but it is a very real battle nonetheless.... It should be obvious that the outcome of this competition will vitally affect the security and standing of this nation (America).

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The Indians need confidence that they can plan major efforts for long-range progress with some assurance of substantial, long-term assistance from the western world. Our aid should, of course, be based upon sound criteria and productive investment. But let us remember economies need time to mature. Our own nation, in the days of its youth, sold railroad bonds to the British and other Europeans—and these were long-term (40 or 50 years) debentures. With the growth of our productive capacity, we gradually became a creditor nation with the ability to repay these foreign investments. There is no question that the Indians, given proper assurance and assistance, could do the same,

OVER THE YEARS

Candidates who failed in their first bid for presidency, then were elected on 2nd try :

Thomas Jefferson	—	1801-1909
John Quincy Adams	—	1825-1829
Andrew Jackson	—	1829-1837
W. H. Harrison	—	1841-1841
Grover Cleveland	—	1885-1889 and 1893-1897

Other Facts About Elections :

Candidate with highest popular vote : Eisenhower (Republican)
(1956) 35, 585, 316

Candidate with highest electoral vote : F. Roosevelt (Democrat)
(1936) 523

Candidate carrying most states : F. Roosevelt (Democrat) (1936)—46

Candidate running most times : Norman Thomas (Socialist)—6
(1928, 1932, 1936, 1940, 1944, 1948)

Candidate elected, defeated, then re-elected—Cleveland (Democrat)
(1884, 1888, 1892)

Qualifications for the Presidency :

In order to occupy the Presidency of the United States, a person must be citizen born in the United States. He must be at least 35 years of age and have been a resident within the United States for 14 years. The same qualifications apply to the vice-presidency.

Qualifications for membership of the Senate :

A member of the Senate must be at least 30 years of age, have been a citizen of the United States for at least 9 years, and must be a resident of the state which he represents.

Qualifications for membership of the House :

A member of the House must be at least 25 years of age, must have been a citizen of the United States for at least 7 years, and reside in the state from which he is elected.

Nation-wide woman suffrage was granted by 19th Amendment to U.S. Constitution on August 26, 1920.

1960 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION—GENERAL INFORMATION

Number	44th
Date	November 8, 1960 (a legal holiday in most states) Polling places open from 6 or 7 a.m. for 12 hours or more
Estimated Participation	65 million
Voters Will Choose (in addition to President and Vice-President)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> —34 senators (22 seats now held by Democrats, 10 of them from South; 12 seats now held by Republicans) —437 members of the House (all) —27 governors of states (15 now held by Democrats, 12 by Republicans) —Numerous state and local officials
1956 Results	Dwight Eisenhower—35,585,316 Adlai Stevenson — 26,031,322 Other candidates — 410,402
1956 Participation (in percent)	60% of those eligible (62.7% in 1952 51.1% in 1948)
Civilian Population of Voting Age	1948 : 94,877,000 Vote Cast 48,833,680 1952 : 98,133,000 61,551,978 1956 : 102,743,000 62,027,040



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